

State of New York
County of Fulton
Town of Caroga

Minutes of the regular monthly Caroga Town Board meeting held Wednesday August 14, 2024 at the municipal building located at 1840 State Highway #10 at 6:30 pm with the following persons in attendance by roll call. The flag salute followed.

Supervisor Ralph J. Palcovic - Here
Council Member John Glenn – Here
Council Member Barbara DeLuca – Here
Council Member Richard Sturgess – Here
Council Member Matthew Cooper – Here

Department representatives in attendance were: Leigh Anne Loucks – Assessor, Jeremy Manning – Wheelerville Bike Trail, Steve Stedman – Golf Course Greenskeeper, Mike Kunath – BTI, Marcus Harazin – Invasive Species Prevention, Walter Jim Hogan – Weed Harvesting Coordinator, Roy Stock – Deputy Highway Superintendent, two highway employees, John Livingston – Board of Assessment Review Member, Planning Board Member George Hamilton, Paul Kidder – Golf Course employee. There were six members of the public in attendance. Zack Vosburg facilitated the zoom portion of the meeting. There were four participants logged in at the beginning of the meeting, 8 at the peak, and four logged in at the end of the meeting.

At 6:31 pm Council Member DeLuca made a motion to enter into an executive session to discuss the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation. The motion was seconded by Council Member Sturgess. All board members were in favor of the motion, Palcovic, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess, Cooper.

Assessor Leigh Anne Louck also attended the executive session.

At 6:52 pm Council Member Glenn made a motion to exit from the executive session. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cooper. All board members were in favor of the motion, Palcovic, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess, Cooper.

As a result of the executive session the following resolution was made.

Resolution #2024-081 to authorize funding for Litigation was offered by Supervisor Palcovic at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on August 14, 2024.

WHEREAS, the Caroga Town Board entered into an executive session at 6:31 pm this evening, and exited at 6:52 pm, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that as a result of the executive session the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to authorize funding for litigation that is pending against the Town of Caroga in New York State Supreme Court.

The motion was seconded by Council Member Cooper

The resolution was adopted by a vote of five Ayes; Palcovic, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess, Cooper

Department Reports:

Wheelerville Bike Trail – Mr. Manning began by thanking the highway department for their work right after the last board meeting to get rid of the culvert pipe. Mr. Manning reported he is deep into festival preparation mode. They are working in the sand pit area. This year he is going to showcase a lot of new kids elements. This is a cooperative event with LL Bean – they will have the boot there on Saturday and Sunday.

Right after Labor Day Mr. Manning stated they will start on some new trails. He has realized we need a lot more beginning terrain. There will be lower mountain loops added for a much easier ride. There will be three shops coming to the festival doing bike demos. The Trek Store from New Hartford, Woodland Cyclery from Oneonta, and Mountain Man from Old Forge will be at the festival. They will be bringing bikes and anyone can ride a bike for free. There will be e-bikes, and high-end suspension mountain bikes to check out. Mr. Manning is working on a merchandise order. There will be hats this year.

Trail layout work (flagging) was done a few weeks ago behind the golf course down to Caroga. After the festival Mr. Manning wants to walk it with the board and get some feedback on it.

The Festival is the 24 & 25 of August. Mr. Manning is working with the New York State Dept. of Transportation on signs and cones. There will be a travel corridor on the highway and signs for parking.

Mr. Manning noted an orange tent was given to the town and stated that someone donated a generator to the town during one of the races two months ago. Supervisor Palcovic commented that it should be marked as property of the Town of Caroga.

BTI – Mike Kunath reported that their season ended as of July 31st. Roughly 65 gallons of BTI were used this year. That was a little more than average due to the wet season. There are roughly 20 gallons on hand. He will put in an order next month or so as the price goes up yearly.

Mr. Kunath will be teaching a course with Mike Sokira from the Town of Stratford BTI Department in mid-December. He hopes to pick up a new employee. He will forward all paperwork to Department of Environmental Conservation.

Sole Assessor – Leigh Anne Loucks submitted a written report. Supervisor Palcovic stated there are three Small Claims Assessment Review for this year. Sales are being entered and STAR is being updated. The Supervisor stated she is doing a good job for us, and thanked Leigh Anne.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector/Registrar/RMO – Linda Gilbert submitted a monthly report. The clerk received a notice from Fulton County Planning Dept. of an upcoming training on October 2 for Planning & Zoning members and members of the board that are interested. The topic is

Shoreline Setbacks. Adirondack Park 101. The training will be out at FMCC from 4 – 7 pm. The clerk hoped that the Planning, Zoning and Town board members will attend.

The clerk noted that over the past few years the town has not shopped around for (health) insurance. Perhaps policies should be compared, getting a better rate for the town, or better coverage for employee. The clerk noted that her deductible picked up by the town has been met and now several thousand dollars of expenses are coming out of her pocket for basic medical care.

Code Enforcement & Sanitation – Mr. Fancher submitted a written report. He issued 34 permits with a value of \$1,768,550.00. fees collected were \$7,425.00. Thirty eight inspections were done on open permits. Fifteen letters and applications were sent out about Short Term Rentals (STR). Seven STR inspections completed with more coming next month. Corrective actions for property maintenance letters were sent out. Supervisor Palcovic noted we have had some good compliance with blight and junk vehicles. Letters or a ticket to court are working.

STR update: inspections continue applicants are taking longer to file as they have failed the inspection. There are safety and non-compliance issues being found.

Dog Control – No report from Mr. Dutcher

Golf Course – Mr. Stedman reported as stated last month there were 800 – 1000 golfers on the course due to outings. Last weekend there were about 220 people on the course Saturday and Sunday.

He is beginning to think about closing the golf course when it comes to aerification and top dressing. He will talk about upcoming projects at the next meeting.

Councilman Sturgess noted he heard a rumor there were a bunch of bicycles driving through the golf course. That is not the case. No one has seen it. He is not sure where the rumor started. Council Member Sturgess answered a lot of calls about the flags on the golf course for the bike trail. Council Member Sturgess wanted to reiterate that the flags on the course are not set in stone for anything. The Board asked Mr. Manning to show them the projected plan of where the trail was going. Now the board can look at it and make their decisions on it. Council Members Sturgess and Cooper drove the course and have some concerns. The golfers have some concerns and something will be figured out at some point in time.

Highway – Mr. Voght submitted a written report. He noted a multitude of vehicle maintenance and building issues which remain unresolved. Supervisor Palcovic has asked the highway superintendent to get some repairs done on South Shore Road of East Caroga Lake. A resident on that road stated the material used came out already. A highway employee stated they will be working on the road tomorrow. It was stated that cold patch will be tamped in. The supervisor stated there have been many complaints. Supervisor Palcovic was on an emergency call on that road and the pot holes effected the ambulance going down the road.

Council Member Sturgess had questions about the report submitted stating there was asbestos in the ceiling, no drinking water or break room, that there was a falling down ceiling fan and unsafe

restrooms. Council Member Sturgess noted there is money in the budget for Mr. Voght to use on the highway garage. “This is not a Town Board issue this is a Larry making it happen issue.” He has a budget to fix the ceiling for general repairs for him to take care of this.

Council Member DeLuca stated it would be more effective if the Highway Superintendent was at the board meetings to discuss these issues.

Supervisor Palcovic noted the town received a letter, from Bruce Clark PE. He has evaluated certain roads and provided the board with some technical assistance for future paving projects.

Lakes Management Program –Mr. Hogan reported that the ProcellaCOR project has been a fantastic success to date. It has exceeded our expectations. This was as a result of adding on the Avery Bay and the campsite area upon the recommendation of DEC and APA. He is trying to figure out where the milfoil has gone in the areas that were not treated. It has been reported by the Adirondack Research Institute that over all in the State of New York all of the data they’ve seen shows the quantity of Eurasian Milfoil is down. They think it is a cyclical thing that happens. “Don’t bank on the fact that it is not going to come back.” ProcellaCOR probably did defuse slightly into larger areas. But the entire East Caroga Lake was not covered. East Caroga Lake is in good shape and West Caroga has never been in bad, bad shape except for the football field. Now it is in excellent shape there is no milfoil there.

Glenn Sullivan came to do the follow up survey and he is not finding any milfoil as well. Mr. Hogan stated several reports were posted online after ProcellaCOR was applied. Brian Green came to Caroga. He is working on new testing by doing DNA sampling on water to identify milfoil DNA. If this is successful it will be very helpful for people to use to see if milfoil is in a lake. This is still in its infancy. Samples were taken on both East and West Caroga Lake.

In a previous report Mr. Hogan noted we had a green type of weed that lay on the bottom of the lake. Mr. Green took some samples of this native species. It is an algae. It has always been there and Mr. Hogan is not sure why now it is floating in on people’s shores. It is a nuisance. On the west side of the lake a gentleman took two pickup trucks full of material off his beach. More was found on the South Shore. A microscopic exam was done by Mr. Green. He is pretty certain it is a noninvasive algae and nothing to worry about.

Ezra Schwartzberg was here to do a follow up survey after ProcellaCOR was applied to see the effectiveness. He will be here for three days. His results won’t be back until sometime in October or November. It was interesting that he found some native milfoil in West Caroga Lake. This was a good sign Mr. Hogan reported. All of the other native plants are looking healthy.

Mr. Hogan had two calls one on fish in the channel the day ProcellaCOR was put in the lake. Mr. Hogan was onsite within ½ hour and didn’t see any dead fish. This was a third hand report. and another call was received about a dead turtle, that is being studied by DEC. We don’t have the names of people making these reports. One report came from a body shop in Amsterdam, a diver was told the story. The reports can’t be documented.

Mr. Hogan voiced his concern that because we have seen some success that in the future funding will be pulled off this project. Currently there is a \$100,000.00 budget. The milfoil is well under control on East Caroga Lake. He would hate to see anything change in the next budget. We need to evaluate with the lakes management committee and redistribute or reuse the money somewhere else. Nothing is done on Stoner Lake or Pine Lake. “We need to look at those lakes, they are part of our town.” Maybe the dive team needs to go there. Mr. Hogan asked the board to think this out very carefully.

Supervisor Palcovic stated he sits on the Adirondack Local Government Committee and they review all the applications and get updates on what is being constructed and the process and about grants for ProcellaCOR. The Supervisor noted grants are rejected if you don’t have a parallel management program. Funds will not go away. If we need to apply or continue to apply for invasive species management, if we don’t have a program in place or have downsized it to a minimal extent, support from the state will go away. This has been established. Supervisor Palcovic stated lakes management is not just East & West Caroga Lakes.

Council Member Glenn stated we have to look at Canada Lake, Green Lake, the Stoner Lakes if the divers have additional time at the end of the year. Maybe they should go up and start looking around.

Mr. Hogan reported right now the divers are not finding that much milfoil to keep them operating. He stated that the afternoon shift was dropped. We are down to three divers now. Mr. Hogan has discussed this with the divers, so they don’t all leave. We will need divers next year.

Mr. Harazin complimented Mr. Hogan for the work that has been done. His work is being noticed and Mr. Harazin has been invited up to Piseco Lake Association this Saturday. They have several invasive species in Piseco Lake. We always inspect boats well from Piseco Lake. They want to hear about what we do in Caroga with our Lakes Management Committee as well as boat inspections and about our ProcellaCOR experience. Mr. Harazin noted Mr. Hogan’s work to get grant money and the support of the Town on this as well. Mr. Harazin also thought it was way too early to back off of what we are doing. “We don’t know, this stuff comes back in a heartbeat.”

Mr. Harazin stated he is subbing in for Mr. Olm. As of August 12, there have been a total of 2406 boats that have been inspected, with over 3800 visitors receiving information and 194 boats being decontaminated. As a preventative measure boats will be washed as you can’t see the Spiney Water Flea. Several boats did have invasive aquatic species on them – primarily milfoil. They were from the Mohawk River. Council Member DeLuca asked what type of boats were bringing in the invasives. Mr. Harazin replied, pontoon boats, kayaks, fishing boats. It was stated that a lot of kayaks are inspected and they have invasives on the inside of the boat. Things like Asian Clams that people track back into their boat and don’t know it is there.

Mr. Harazin noted the number of correspondences about putting a boat wash unit up at West Lake. It is a DEC site. The town went through an assessment process with DOT, DEC, and the APA Invasive Plant Program and Adirondack Watershed Institute. Several sites were looked at and West Lake was not deemed viable nor was the Caroga Campsite for a variety of reasons. Ease of access, and the accessibility of power and water. There is no communications, power, or

water there. The town received a grant for our boat washing unit. The cost was limited. Portable self-contained units (like the ones at Lake George) boats are washed with a heated pressure washer. The water goes into a giant pool where the bottom is vacuumed off and into a holding tank and recycled. That unit costs \$20,000 - \$40,000.00. They require high maintenance.

Mr. Harazin noted West Lake gets a fair amount of traffic on the weekend 60 – 100 boats. The road is compromised for the residents. He lives at the end of the road and there have been times when emergency vehicles and Encon Officers have had a hard time getting down the road. He has had to back people's boats off the bridge because they get stuck there. The site across the street is centrally located. Council Member Glenn stated it was the best compromise. Supervisor Palcovic stated it has high visibility too. Mr. Harazin stated both marina's have been very good about brining boats up. Mr. Harazin stated there are still people who do not want to go through the process. They argue with the stewards. It is explained that this is a service for the public and it is free. Most know this and are cooperative. Council Member Glenn stated it is education.

Council Member Glenn asked if there were contacts from the lake associations on Pine and Stoner Lakes. Mr. Harazin communicates with Stoner Lakes but doesn't have a contact for Pine Lake.

Town Hall Building – Council Member Cooper reported we need to get on the roof and look at the vent.

Caroga Tourism Committee – Council Member DeLuca did not have a report from the committee.

Supervisor's Report:

CT Male Technical Services change order #6 on the landfill. The Supervisor needs approval for a change order but wanted to look into this closer prior to approving this contact. He will call CT Male on this. He will check on the frequency of the testing and the cost. Council Member Cooper thought this was an annual process.

Supervisor Palcovic stated he and a board member have met with a couple of engineering firms, and another contractor to move forward with a design for the club house. The previous architectural firm decided they were not interested in going forward with a proposal. Options were discussed.

As discussed by Council Member Cooper we have to do some roof repairs on the building. If anyone is aware of a contractor for the repair of the existing roof – they were asked to call the supervisor. Specifications will be drawn up for this emergency repair for the winter.

At 7:30 pm Supervisor Palcovic opened the floor to public comments and questions.

Paul Kidder was glad to hear that the board has not made any decisions yet on this bike trail through the golf course. He has done a 3 - 4-day straw pole with the golfers. He talked to about 75 men and women and they are against the bike trail going anywhere near the golf course. He has a relative in Lake Placid where a municipal course - Craig Wood Golf Course, that has a bike trail going around most of it and touches on it in a couple of spots. It is a minimum of 50 – 60 feet off any rough. The golfers can't see the bikers and vice versa. The golfers still don't like it. The complaint is that it is loud.

Mr. Hogan asked if the town had any interest in the problem with the artesian well. Several board members replied it is back. Everything is good to go. The water was tested at the property owner's cost at the Gloversville water department and the test came back with no negativity. It is back open. Someone got sick. The Supervisor stated if there was an illness with a water borne issue there would have been many people sick. It is a well-used community service. Mr. Warner provides. Council Member DeLuca stated like anything you do it at your own risk. If there was a mass illness Dept of Health would shut it down.

Marcus Harazin is a resident on West Lake Road. He knows the town received a letter from the West Lake Association about the street light being no longer functional. At the time the town did the survey on the street lighting this was not on the map as it was deemed to not be a town National Grid light. Other National Grid lights have been turned off and now it is a town light. When Mr. Harazin spoke to former Supervisor Scott Horton and Tor, he was told not to worry about it. The focus then was to turn on the light at Pt Breeze. Mr. Harazin would like to see the West Lake light turned back on. He stated there are residents that live there year-round and the parking lot is used in the winter by ice fisherman and snowmobilers. The light is a beacon that is depended upon to get back to the parking lot. The light is also needed during emergencies. Supervisor Palcovic stated it is a matter of public safety. Council Member Glenn asked if there was a pole number. Mr. Harazin stated it was provided to the town. Supervisor Palcovic was in favor, at budget time, to put a couple new lights up in critical areas this being one of them. Council Member Sturgess wondered if the bulb was out. National Grid has been called about this light and the company has stated it is not their light anymore. It was believed that the town took ownership of all the lights. The Supervisor would have to call the company that installed all the lights. Council Member Sturgess mentioned that 2 lights were supposed to be installed per a resolution last year, one at Lake View and another at Vrooman Road.

No one online wanted to address the board. At 6:37 pm the public portion of the meeting was closed.

Old Business:

Supervisor Palcovic again mentioned that all staff need training for the prevention of work place violence and sexual harassment training.

Supervisor Palcovic stated as a board we need to define Non-CDL Employees in a drug testing program. There was a brief discussion on this a few months back. Employees with Commercial Drivers Licenses have other requirements. We have other people operating equipment and we never clearly.... Supervisor Palcovic asked the board members to think about who we would like to add to this program. We have employees on the golf course using equipment, we have at

least one highway employee without a CDL driving town equipment.

New Business:

Mr. Hogan stated it was news to him that an additional AIS Survey was required. A contract for services was brought up at the meeting. He noted a pre ProcCellaCOR survey was done. Mr. Schwartzberg stated it was a liability for him if he didn't have a contract explaining why his employees are on this lake. Council Member DeLuca asked if we had to pay more money. Mr. Hogan replied this was not in the budget as he was not aware we needed to do this until we got the permits. This all came as a surprise. Council Member Glenn reviewed page 2 of the contract which lists the three phases of the contract. This will close the application on the ProcCellaCOR piece of the puzzle. The cost is \$8,600.00. Council Member Glenn asked where the money was coming from. It will come out of the lakes management program.

RESOLUTION #2024-082 to contract with Dr. Ezra Schwartzberg Director Adirondack Research LLC for an AIS Survey of East and West Caroga Lakes was offered by Supervisor Palcovic at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on Wednesday August 14, 2024.

WHEREAS, Weed Harvesting Coordinator Walter J Hogan brought forth a contract from Adirondack Research for a Caroga Lakes AIS Survey, and

WHEREAS, the contract is for consulting services between the Town of Caroga and Adirondack Research for three phases of work: Phase 1 Survey aquatic plants via rake toss sampling within Caroga Lakes \$6,600.00, Phase 2 Create maps and data tables of the surveys \$1,200.00, Phase 3 Draft reports (2) with data analysis \$800.00, and

WHEREAS, payment terms are 20% (\$1,7200.00) due upon execution of the agreement with the remaining \$6,880.00 due upon completion of tasks outline, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to enter into a contract with Dr. Ezra Schwartzberg Director Adirondack Research LLC 73 Church Street, Suite 2 Saranac Lake Ny 12983 (518) 278-6070 with said contract terms beginning on August 8, 2024 and ends on December 31, 2024. Maps and abbreviated report will be submitted to the client on or before December 1, 2024.

Seconded by Council Member Glenn

Adopted by a vote of five ayes; Palcovic, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess, Cooper

Supervisor Palcovic noted the many correspondences stating the West Lake access street light is probably one of the most important ones.

Correspondence:

Flurry of emails about having a mobile boat wash unit at West Lake Launch Site
Caroga Transfer Station closed Monday 9/2 Labor Day open Tuesday 9/3rd 8 – 4
Complaint RE: 173 Lake Shore Road (documents email to the board on 8/3 @ 7 pm)

ZBA training in Town of Webb 9/30/24 9 am – 2:30 pm \$55.00
Letter 7/23 re the street light for the parking lot on West Lake Road
Email 7/25 condition of Old State Road
Public Service Notice on hearings regarding climate vulnerability study plans submitted by utilities
Letter re: restoring the street light on Old State Road
Letter re: condition of Old State Road

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION # 2024-083 to enter into a contract with Fulton County Highway Department for Snow Removal and Ice Control for 2024-2025 was offered by Supervisor Palcovic at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on Wednesday August 14, 2024.

WHEREAS, the Fulton County Highway Department submitted a Snow Removal and Ice Control Contract to the Town of Caroga for the following roads County Highway 111 1.37 miles, and County Road 137 for 3.76 miles for a total reimbursement for 5.13 miles the price per mile is \$5500.00 the total contract amounts \$28,215.00, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to accept the Fulton County Highway Department Snow Removal and Ice Control Contract for 2024-2025.

Seconded by Council Member Glenn

Discussion: Council Member Cooper asked if the contract is different from what it was last year. The Clerk replied that the contract amount was \$28,215.00 last year as well. The contract amount was \$25,650.00 in 2021 and had not changed for many years prior to 2022. Council Member Cooper asked if there was a negotiation process? Do we accept it? The clerk asked the Supervisor if this is discussed at his county meetings. He replied no. Council Member Cooper did not know if there was an option to accept or reject based off actual costs. Supervisor Palcovic stated if it doesn't snow, we have free money. If it snows every day we are taking a hit. A highway employee in attendance noted they drive down those roads to get to other town roads anyway. There is a record on the wall at the barn of every time the county roads are plowed/sanded/salted.

Adopted by a vote of five ayes; Palcovic, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess, Cooper

RESOLUTION #2024-084 to accept the 2024 Tax Collector's Books as presented for Audit was offered by Supervisor Palcovic at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on Wednesday August 14, 2024.

WHEREAS, the Town Clerk/Tax Collector Linda Gilbert presented the 2024 tax collection book for audit to the board at the April 10, 2024 meeting, and

WHEREAS, three board members reviewed, examined, audited and signed off on the documents they reviewed showing that the collector did balance to the penny with the Fulton County Treasurer, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to accept the 2024 Tax Collector’s books as presented for audit.

Seconded by Council Member Cooper

Adopted by a vote of five Ayes; Palcovic, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess, Cooper

RESOLUTION #2024-085 to make the following transfers as necessary to maintain a balanced budget was offered by Supervisor Palcovic at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on Wednesday August 14, 2024.

From: A8090.13 WEED divers	\$ 25,000.00	
To: A8090.41 WEED C/E		\$ 25,000.00
From: A1620.42 Golf Clubhouse C/E	\$ 290.00	
To: A6410.41 Golf Advertising		\$ 290.00
From: A9060.81 GC Health Ins	\$ 5,000.00	
To: A9050.81 GC Unemployment		\$ 5,000.00
From: DA5130.20 Machinery EQ	\$ 52,000.00	
To: DA5110.4 General Repairs C/E		\$ 52,000.00

Seconded by Council Member Sturgess

Discussion: Council Member Glenn agreed with the first three transfers. He asked about the transfer from the machinery account. Council Member Cooper asked if the funds were coming from machinery equipment account or the equipment reserve account. It was not coming out of a reserve account. Council Member Cooper reviewed the monthly budget reports he sees there is \$90,000.00 on the line item the previous board put into reserves. He noted that money is there for when the big trucks are cycled out. Council Member DeLuca stated page 10 of the report shows the highway reserve line item. It was stated the \$52,000.00 is not from the reserve account.

Adopted by a vote of five Ayes; Palcovic, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess, Cooper

RESOLUTION #2024-086 to approve an emergency bridge repair contract on Cape Horn Road was offered by Supervisor Palcovic at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on Wednesday August 14, 2024.

WHEREAS, the town was notified by Mark Gaworecki, P.E Regional Structures Management Engineer with the New York Department of Transportation Mohawk Valley Region room 1201A 207 Genesee Street, Utica NY 13501 (315) 793-2278 on May 21, 2024 via email, and

WHEREAS, the Highway Superintendent, Larry Voght, received a quote dated 6/11/24 from R & B construction LLC Randy Bascom 1094 Bulls Head Road Amsterdam NY 12010 (518) 248-0493 to remove all the rail and posts from the bridge and approaches, weld 4 blockouts on each side, bolt in the posts and install the bridge rail pound in all the posts for the approaches and install the rail with the Twon supplying a backhoe the materials and labor will be \$55,000.00, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to contract with R & B construction LLC with the cost of materials and labor to be \$55,000.00 for the repairs as directed by New York State for the Cape Horn Bridge repair.

Seconded by Council Member Sturgess

Adopted by a vote of five Ayes; Palcovic, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess, Cooper

Supervisor Palcovic made a motion to waive the reading of the previous month's minutes. Council Members Sturgess and Cooper seconded the motion. All board members were in favor of the motion: Palcovic, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess, Cooper.

Council Member Sturgess explained that North Country Electrical submitted a bill for \$350.00 for work performed at the golf course building on the AC unit, in the bathroom and on a pole light. Council Member Sturgess noted that Mr. Hillock owner of North Country Electrical advertises on the golf course as a hole sponsor and owes the town \$325.00. He would like the amount owed deducted from this repair bill for a \$25.00 difference which the town owes him.

RESOLUTION #2024-087 to exchange services rendered for an advertising expense was offered by Council Member Sturgess at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on Wednesday August 14, 2024.

WHEREAS, North Country Electrical, Matt Hillock submitted a bill for \$350.00 for work performed at the golf course building, and

WHEREAS, the owner of North Country Electrical, Matt Hillock owed the Town of Caroga for his advertisement on the golf course in the amount of \$325.00, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to exchange the amount for services performed by North Country Electrical for balance due by North Country Electrical for advertising on the golf course leaving a balance of \$25.00 payable to North Country Electrical, and be it further **RESOLVED**, that the town shall create a voucher tonight to pay North Country Electrical \$25.00 from General Park.

Seconded by Supervisor Palcovic

Discussion: Council Member Sturgess noted there was no reason for him to cut us a check and then the town would cut him a check back.

Adopted by a vote of five Ayes; Palcovic, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess, Cooper

Supervisor Palcovic stated during one of the hellacious storms we had in the past four weeks the town incurred a cost to move a boulder that came off the side of a hill from private property onto a town road. The boulder weighed about 62000 lbs. This cost the town \$4,095.00. Adirondack Towing was contacted to get the rock out of the road. The town will attempt to seek some financial reimbursement from the property owners. Kasson Drive has a lot of rocky hill sides. This could happen again but we are not going to purchase heavy equipment to have on hand.

RESOLUTION #2024-088 to seek reimbursement for the cost to remove a boulder from Kasson Drive was offered by Council Member Sturgess at the regular monthly meeting of the Caroga Town Board held on Wednesday August 14, 2024.

WHEREAS, during a recent storm a boulder weighing 62000 lbs. came off of private land onto Kasson Drive a town road, and

WHEREAS, the boulder could not be moved by the highway equipment owned by the town and the town incurred an expense of \$4,095.00 to remove the boulder by Adirondack Towing 348 NY 67 Amsterdam NY 12010. Now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to send a bill to the property owners for the amount the town paid to Adirondack Towing to move the boulder from the driving lane on Kasson Drive.

Seconded by Council Member Glenn

Discussion: Council Member Sturgess stated that he disagreed. He stated in the event of a storm like a tree falls on the road the town goes and cleans it up. He is worried about setting a precedent every time there is a storm and something goes into the road or something happens that it will cost the homeowner.

Council Member DeLuca has been a member of the fire department for several years. The Council Member stated when trees fall into the roadways the fire department and the highway department cut up the trees all the time. The highway department is getting overtime. Trees are not the same as a giant boulder.

Council Member Cooper stated the highway department has the means to do X so now does the town absorb that as part of an emergency? Is it an insurance thing for the land owner? Council Member Cooper asked what happens when a house falls off the side of Kasson Drive?

Council Member DeLuca stated the resolution has been made. Let's see what the insurance company says.

A member of the highway department stated maybe insurance will cover it because the highway department had to do something. It may be a question of negligence on the property owner. Council Member Sturgess stated this is an act of God.

Supervisor Palcovic has been in the fire department forever. If a 250-gallon fuel tank falls over and covers the ground and into a ditch. If the fire department spends \$500.00 on the emergency this is above and beyond normal operating costs. They have to put spill absorbents down and when it determined what was used a bill is sent to the insurance company. If they pay the fire department is happy. It was asked if FEMA money could pay for this. Supervisor Palcovic stated we would have to declare a disaster along with the county first. The highway personnel were thanked for their input.

Adopted by a vote of four Ayes; Palcovic, Glenn, DeLuca, Cooper,
Opposed Sturgess

Supervisor Palcovic stated we are not billing for man hours just the crane cost.

Council Member Glenn made a motion to approve the bills as presented for audit. Council Member DeLuca seconded the motion. All board members were in favor of the motion: Palcovic, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess, Cooper.

Council Member DeLuca made a motion to approve the unread minutes of the July 10th, 2024 Town Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Council Member Glenn. All board members were in favor of the motion: Palcovic, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess, Cooper.

At 8:04 pm Council Member DeLuca made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Council Member Glenn. All board members were in favor of the motion: Palcovic, Glenn, DeLuca, Sturgess, Cooper.

Submitted by the Town Clerk

Linda Gilbert RMC, CMC

General #'s 260 – 299 \$80,882.33

General Park #'s 61 – 79 \$6,645.50

Highway #'s 108 – 121 \$241,161.03

Prepaid #'s 191 -223 \$65,884.41